

# ALDERMAN Jim BOHL

5th District



Spring/Summer 2004



## Dear Neighbor:

In September we finally had a stretch of summer-like weather – something we seemed to have missed in most of June and July – but with fall truly here we once again are thankful for the color and beauty that autumn brings to our fine city. My fall newsletter will give you important information you can use to get ready for winter, and it also includes many other articles that I hope will inform and interest you.

Below you will find information about the Town Hall Meetings I've scheduled for November. I encourage your attendance and look forward to seeing you there.

In this edition of my newsletter you will read about my efforts to clamp down on tavern and club owners who don't live up to their promises when it comes to the music and entertainment they say they'll offer, and you will also find out about my proposal to control the spread of payday loan stores in our neighborhoods. You will also learn more about the proposed 2005 city budget and how it might impact you and your neighbors.

As always, if you have issues I can assist you with or suggestions for improving our city, please don't hesitate to contact me.

**Please have a safe and enjoyable fall and a joyful holiday season.**

Sincerely,

Jim Bohl  
Alderman, 5th District

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### Alderman Bohl's Committee Assignments

**VICE CHAIR** • Utilities & Licenses Committee

**MEMBER** • Judiciary & Legislation • Milwaukee Survive Alive Foundation (Board V.P.)

• Greater Milwaukee Convention & Visitors Bureau (Board)

## Alderman Bohl To Hold Town Hall Meetings

Alderman Bohl will hold two town hall meetings this fall to meet residents and discuss important issues affecting 5th District neighborhoods and the city as a whole.

The meetings will run from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and will encompass the following dates, locations and topics:

- **Tuesday, November 9**  
at Emerson School,  
9025 W. Lawrence Ave.,  
located 1/2 block north  
of Congress St. (Discussion  
of the proposed 2005 city  
budget).
- **Wednesday, November 17**  
at Berea Lutheran Church,  
4873 N. 107th St.  
(Discussion of general  
neighborhood and city  
issues).

*I look forward to  
seeing you there!*

Ald. Bohl was one of the many community volunteers who helped fill 2,000 lunch bags with sandwiches, fruit and a cold drink in June 2004 at Red Arrow Park, 920 N. Water St. for the Salvation Army's "Feed the Kids" Summer Lunch Program. During the summer volunteers helped make and deliver more than 90,000 lunches to hungry children throughout Greater Milwaukee. Pictured with the alderman are fellow volunteers (from left) Portia Young of WISN-TV channel 12, and Lori Fugate, assistant director of community relations, Salvation Army of Greater Milwaukee.




## Tips For Trash

### Fall Leaf Pickup Through November 15

Since October 1 city Sanitation crews have been collecting leaves raked into the street at the curb. The leaf collection will continue through November 15.

Please help keep debris away from storm drains in the street. Do not put plastic bags of leaves in the street. Empty them and put empty plastic bags in the garbage. Leaves collected by the city are composted but plastic bags will not decompose. Place garden debris such as vines, roots, and flower and vegetable plants on top of the leaf piles at the curb.



Dispose of food waste from gardens and fruit trees and Halloween jack-o'-lantern pumpkins in the green garbage cart or on a compost pile – not on leaf piles in the street.

Do not put brush on top of leaf piles. For special curbside pickup of very large amounts of branches and large items, put them at the curb and call **286-8282**, the information and assistance number of the Department of Public Works. Call at least one week in advance for special pickups if possible.

### How To Call For Special Trash Pickup

If you are planning to move or just doing some cleaning, make sure you are aware of the city's trash collection guidelines.

Call the Department of Public Works Information Line at **286-8282** to request a special pickup. Make sure you inform them of the type of material you are discarding, and also where it will be deposited (curb or alley).

Please keep the pile orderly and contained. Please be patient as it could take up to 10 working days for your request to be handled. For problems call Alderman Bohl at **286-3870**.



Ald. Bohl helped plant a maple tree on **Arbor Day** outside Craig Montessori School, 7667 W. Congress St. After the ceremony the alderman spoke to the students and a group of parents and teachers about city government and the importance of trees in boosting the city's urban canopy.

## Budget Deliberations Begin, Council To Take Final Vote Nov. 12

The Common Council will take its crack at the 2005 proposed city budget in hearings throughout the month of October, culminating with a meeting to adopt a final budget on November 12.

The budget adopted by the Common Council will determine the level of city services rendered by various departments and will also determine the city's portion of property tax bills. The 2005 budget, the first submitted by newly elected Mayor Tom Barrett, seeks to abide by the so called "freeze" that was advocated last year by the Republican majority in the Wisconsin State Legislature.

Mayor Barrett's budget proposal featured a proposed levy increase of \$4 million, which would translate to an approximate 2% increase in the city portion of property tax bills.

Among the highlights of the Barrett plan are a sizable increase in the city's investment in sewer upgrades, a change to provide the bulk of sanitation "special pickups" during the normal weekly garbage pickup, the addition of one new recruit class in the police and fire departments, and a \$360 property tax rebate proposal for residents who mentor MPS students.

The Mayor's budget proposal also includes some significant cuts, including hours reductions at many of the neighborhood branch libraries, reducing fire personnel to four firefighters on all engine companies (ladder companies would continue with five firefighters)

and additional reductions in plantings on median boulevards.

To help keep a lid on taxes in the face of continued erosion of state shared revenues to the city and hefty health insurance increases, the Mayor has proposed a surcharge on new residential construction and the pulling of some building permits, and is proposing to tap into \$5 million of city reserves. Ald. Bohl's concern over similar credit card financing with reserves was an important factor in his voting against the 2004 budget.

In all, the Barrett's budget plan would seek to eliminate 243 city positions, 40 of which are now currently filled.

Ald. Bohl, noted for his record as a budget hawk, pointed to steep increases in the already approved budgets of other local governmental entities like MPS as a strong reason why the city needs to keep its spending under control. "I speak with too many constituents struggling to pay prescription drug or heating bills, just trying to make ends meet," said Ald. Bohl. "While it's true that all local governmental entities are facing tough budgetary situations, somebody's got to hold the line."

Ald. Bohl welcomes your input as the budget unfolds and encourages all constituents to join him at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 9, 2004 for his annual budget-related town hall meeting. See page one of the newsletter for additional details.

# Stopping Payday Loan Store Concentration, Proliferation

Ald. Bohl is the chief sponsor of proposed legislation that would require any new “payday loan” store to be located at least 1,500 feet from any existing payday loan location or 150 feet from a single or two-family zoned neighborhood.

The ordinance would change city zoning regulations as they pertain to currency exchanges, payday loan agencies and title loan agencies. Currently, there are no zoning regulations preventing these types of businesses from clustering very near to each other in one geographic area, and that has caused concern, Ald. Bohl said.

“The northwest side of Milwaukee is simply inundated with these types of agencies, with recent data showing that 36 of the city’s 58 payday loan, title loan or currency exchange locations are either located on Capitol Drive or in areas to the north of Capitol Drive,” said Ald. Bohl. “Because of the predatory nature of these businesses – and because they are so loosely regulated by the State of Wisconsin – I believe it is right to protect the citizens of Milwaukee from having their neighborhoods littered with these businesses.”

Payday loan facilities have become frequent targets of crime, and in several cases agency employees have been

abducted at gunpoint from their homes, taken to the location and then forced to open the store’s safe. Additionally, payday loan stores often have gaudy neon signage and give the perception of a commercial district in decline. But, on a basic, more pervasive level, these stores are harmful to citizens because they charge fees constituting outrageously high interest rates and prey on customers who are particularly susceptible to oppressive loan terms and collection practices, Ald. Bohl said.

A report of payday lending in Wisconsin, done by the State of Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, shows that the average disclosed annual percentage rate of loans reviewed in Wisconsin to be 542.2% (“Review of Payday Lending in Wisconsin, 2001”). The same report shows that a majority of loans go unpaid and are rolled over, exacerbating the debt cycle.

Ald. Bohl previously authored legislation in 2000 closing the door on the “automatically approved,” permitted use status payday loan stores had in city commercially-zoned areas, changing it instead to a special-use status. The current legislation is expected to be taken up by the Common Council in late October.



Earlier this year Ald. Bohl presided over a **special Common Council ceremony honoring 5th District constituent Mariano “Skip” Schifalacqua on his retirement from the City of Milwaukee’s Department of Public Works (DPW)**. During a distinguished 30-year career, Schifalacqua (standing to Ald. Bohl’s right) served as the city engineer, the deputy commissioner, and as commissioner of DPW. During his career Schifalacqua was involved in managing several landmark projects in the city, including the \$89 million upgrade of the Milwaukee Water Works’ two treatment plants, the construction of the beautiful Sixth Street Viaduct and securing the cooperation needed from the state and federal governments to demolish the Park East Freeway.

## *Ordinance Would Hold Taverns Accountable*

An ordinance authored by Ald. Bohl and approved by the Common Council on September 21 allows the council to revoke tavern and dance/entertainment licenses from bars and clubs that deviate from stated entertainment plans.

Ald. Bohl said the goal of the new ordinance is to hold clubs and taverns accountable for their entertainment and music formats. “Unfortunately, we’ve had several establishments that have applied for and received licenses based on promises that they would offer a certain type of music or entertainment, and then down the line when major problems are occurring – things like fights, shootings, traffic congestion, noise and numerous police calls – we find out that they are not offering anything close to the music and entertainment they’d promised,” said Ald. Bohl, who is vice-chair of the Utilities and Licenses Committee, which oversees all license and permit applications regulated by the city.

The ordinance requires each license applicant to include a description of the type of entertainment, music, exhibitions, dancing, singing, floorshow or other performances to be held on the premises. The Common Council has the authority to amend or alter the proposed types of entertainment of the licensed applicant based on competent evidence related to noise, litter, traffic congestion, inadequate parking, unruly patrons, damage to property, lewd and lascivious behavior and other problems impacting the health, safety and welfare of the neighborhood.

Under the new ordinance, a licensed applicant is prohibited from deviating from the plan of entertainment approved by the Common Council.





## Jim Bohl

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## New 'Citizen Service Request' On City Web Site

If you have Internet access and an email account, you will soon be able to use the City of Milwaukee "Citizen Service Request" (CSR) system to notify us of your problem or concern. Your request will be routed to the appropriate city department for action. The email account you use to log into the application is used to communicate with you relative to your request. You are also able to see previous requests submitted from your email address along with the request(s) status.

You may also choose to use the same email account to sign up to receive several different types of notices from the City of Milwaukee - including news releases, meeting notices and agendas, job announcements, bid notices, online auction items, and many others. This service is called "E-Notify," and you can add or delete notices at any time. E-Notify is a cost-effective, technologically advanced solution to keep citizens better informed of government activities. E-Notify is accessible from the "I Want To" area on the left side of the City of Milwaukee home page, [www.milwaukee.gov](http://www.milwaukee.gov).

## Tips For Winter

### Disposing of Holiday Trees



Residents of the City of Milwaukee have two options for dealing with the removal and disposal of holiday trees.

Garbage collection crews will pick up the tree if it is placed where the garbage is collected. If your garbage collection is in an alley, holiday trees **MUST** be placed at the alley line for collection, not on the street. Only those residents whose garbage is collected from the street may place their tree at the curb to be picked up. Trees collected by garbage crews will be taken to a landfill.

Under the state recycling law, Christmas trees may be disposed of in landfills because they are not considered yard waste. Trees may also be taken to a Self-Help Center where they will be composted for use by city forestry crews. The Self-Help Centers are located at 6660 N. Industrial Rd. and 3879 W. Lincoln Ave.

### Winter Parking Restrictions Start Dec. 1

Winter parking restrictions in the City of Milwaukee take effect on December 1. Some winter parking restrictions are posted. Motorists should look for signs describing the parking restrictions along streets that are affected by winter rules. These restrictions include the following:

- **Snow Route Tow-Away Zone** – During a declared snow emergency, no parking is permitted on streets posted with this sign at any time of the year.
- **Specific Side Parking** – Certain residential streets are restricted to parking on a specific side of the street from December 1 to March 1 or with a monthly alternation of the prohibited side.
- **2" Rule** – Certain residential streets are restricted to parking when there is 2" or more of snowfall. No parking is allowed on the side of the street where the sign is posted until the snow has been removed-day or night or at any time of the year.

Some winter parking restrictions are not posted. These restrictions include the following:

- **No Parking December 1 to March 1** – No night parking is allowed on through highways and mass transit routes during this time period.
- **Exception to Alternate Side Night Parking** – Streets where parking is allowed on both sides of the street from March 1 to December 1 will only allow alternate side night parking from December 1 to March 1.

If a vehicle has been parked on the street for more than 24 hours, the vehicle will be ticketed and possibly towed. In addition, any violation of the parking restrictions above will result in a parking citation and your vehicle may be towed.

If you have any questions regarding posted and unposted winter parking restrictions for a specific street visit [www.parking.mpw.net](http://www.parking.mpw.net) or call the Parking Information Desk at **286-8350**. Communication Assistants are available to answer your call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.